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## ***Shuster Announces Grant to Marion Center Volunteer Fire Association in Indiana County***

Washington, D.C. – **Congressman Bill Shuster** is pleased to announce that the Marion Center Volunteer Fire Association has successfully secured an \$118,750 grant through the Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Fire Fighters Program (AFGP).

The \$118,750 grant will be used to purchase a variety of rescue equipment and personal safety apparel to enhance the association's ability to serve the community. The association will purchase 15 complete sets of SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) equipment, as well as an inflation compressor to refill the units. Additionally, the association will use the grant to purchase a new laptop and brand new Hurst Crash Recovery software for vehicle rescues.

The Hurst Recovery System is a major advancement in rescue technology because it allows firefighters to quickly respond to incidents involving hybrid cars.

Unlike older cars, electric hybrids have batteries and high voltage wires running throughout the car frame. The position of these wires and power systems vary from automaker to automaker so it is critical that rescue personnel know where they can and can't cut into the car's frame to avoid a potentially life threatening injury. The Hurst system will allow the Marion Center firefighters to have vehicle schematics on hand on a laptop when responding to car emergencies.

"The equipment that will be purchased through this grant is cutting edge stuff," Shuster said. "Marion Center's interest in applying for this grant shows that they are continually on the look out for the best equipment available to save lives."

"Unfortunately, much of this equipment and technology is too costly to be purchased through fundraising alone. That's where the fire grant program comes in and I am pleased that the fire association has been successful in applying for this competitive grant."

"I am so pleased to have obtained this grant from FEMA. It would have been very hard and taken several years of fund raising just for this cause to be able to complete this project," said Galen Moore-Assistant Chief, Marion Center Fire Department.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFGP) awards one-year grants directly to fire departments and rescue personnel to support the nation's first responders and the services they deliver. The Department of Homeland Security's Office of State and Local Government

Coordination and Preparedness (SLGCP) administers the program, in cooperation with the U.S. Fire Administration.

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